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CHOLERA.

During the last three or four months cholera has been reported in various localities in southern Europe. In Austria-Hungary 93 cases with 43 deaths were reported up to August 25. In Roumania cases have been reported in 25 different localities. In Servia up to August 23 there had been reported 1,460 cases, with 619 deaths. The disease was also reported present in the Kherson district of southern Russia. In Turkey in Europe cases were reported in Constantinople, Kavak, and Saloniki. Cases were present August 25 among soldiers at Varna in Bulgaria. The spread of the disease in southern Europe has apparently been due largely to the demobilization of armies, which have brought the disease back from the front.

In China cholera broke out in Hongkong the early part of August, and on the 25th of the month 2 cases were reported at Manila, in the Philippine Islands.

AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION, HELD AT NASHVILLE, TENN., AUGUST 18-23, 1913.

By MARTIN I. WILBERT, Technical Assistant, Hygienic Laboratory, United States Public Health Service.

The total number of persons registered at the Sixty-first Annual Convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association, which was held at the Hotel Hermitage, Nashville, Tenn., August 18 to 23, 1913, was 397. Practically all parts of the country were represented, and the attendance at the several sessions of the association and of the different sections was unusually good.

The meeting of the association was formally opened by President W. S. Day on the afternoon of August 18. The address of the president contained a number of recommendations relating to public-health matters, more particularly the manufacture and use of nostrums and the abuse of habit-forming drugs. The president pointed out that so-called patent medicines are secret in composition and that secrecy in formula is frequently accompanied by extravagant exploitation. In some cases the patient is injured by the formation

of drug habit and in others by the excessive or ill-advised use of powerful drugs, while, if no other ill effects are experienced, there is often a waste of valuable time devoted to "trying out" a much-vaunted cure, during which the opportunity for successfully combatting the disease is lost. He also expressed the opinion that at this time the American Pharmaceutical Association should do no less than emphatically restate the steadfast opposition of its members to nostrums of all descriptions.

At a subsequent meeting of the association the appointment of a commission on proprietary medicines was authorized. The duties of this commission will be to investigate and report on various so-called patent medicines sold in the United States and their percentage of alcohol and habit-forming drugs.

The scientific work of the association was largely done in connection with four of the seven sections of the association, and the communications presented in these sections aggregated upward of 125.

The section on scientific papers presented the most extended program. This program was largely devoted to technical subjects of a chemical or of a pharmacognostic nature, although work along the line of experimental pharmacology was reported on in connection with communications on digitalis, ergot, ouabain, and in a paper describing an improved kymograph, which permits the simultaneous use of four animals in connection with one piece of apparatus.

The members attending the section on practical pharmacy and dispensing discussed 31 communications, mostly of a practical nature, and also had the privilege of listening to an illustrated lecture on the flora of central Tennessee.

In the section devoted to the discussion of pharmacopœias and formularies the chairman of the committee on revision of the Pharmacopœia of the United States presented a comprehensive report on proposed changes in the Pharmacopœia, and also ventured the statement that the new Pharmacopœia was now 90 per cent complete and that printing would probably begin in the very near future.

The chairman of the committee on National Formulary reported that the members of the committee present at Nashville had held several meetings and that the work of revision was practically completed so far as formulas were concerned. He also presented a copy of the completed draft of the Formulary.

The chairman of the committee on unofficial standards reported that monographs for many of the drugs needed in the formulas of the National Formulary and not included in the Pharmacopœia had been prepared and that the few remaining monographs would be ready in the very near future, thus practically completing the work of revision.

The section on education and legislation of the American Pharmaceutical Association devoted the greater portion of the available time to the discussion of laws relating to poisons and habit-forming drugs. A lengthy paper on the nature of poisons elicited considerable discussion, and the suggestion was made that it might be possible to define poisons in the form of toxic units per gram of animal.

The reports of the representatives of the American Pharmaceutical Association to the American Drug Trade Conference elicited considerable discussion on the desirability, practicability, and need for Federal legislation to control the sale of narcotic drugs, and appreciation was expressed of the work done by the Public Health Service in the compilation of laws relating to the manufacture, sale, and use of poisons and habit-forming drugs.

A communication on the need for uniformity in laws relating to the manufacture and sale of poisons and habit-forming drugs elicited much discussion and evidenced considerable uniformity of opinion in regard to the desirability of correlating the laws relating to these several subjects. The members of the association at the final session indorsed resolutions advanced by the house of delegates and previously adopted by the council of the American Pharmaceutical Association, favoring greater uniformity in laws relating to the manufacture and sale of narcotic drugs; a detail plan for the lessening of poison cases from the use of poison tablets intended for external use; a better law against illegal trade in habit-forming drugs; a law further restricting the sale of methyl alcohol, and a recommendation that the committees of revision of the Pharmacopœia and of the National Formulary indicate toxic drugs. The association also indorsed a recommendation that the revision committees include synonyms in the United States Pharmacopœia and National Formulary and adopted a resolution to the effect that the association is in favor of greater uniformity in connection with pharmacopœial nomenclature, particularly of potent drugs, and advocates the establishment of a commission to bring about this uniformity.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

A NOTE REGARDING CERTAIN PAPERS OF PUBLIC-HEALTH INTEREST PRESENTED AT THE MEETING AT ROCHESTER, N. Y., SEPTEMBER 9-13, 1913.

By ATHERTON SEIDELL, Technical Assistant, Hygienic Laboratory, United States Public Health Service.

At the meeting of the American Chemical Society 17 papers were presented before the section on water, sewage, and sanitation. Of these, the papers presented by Prof. Chamot, of Cornell University, and his assistant, Dr. Redfield, upon the value and best conditions for testing for hydrogen-sulphide production in the bacteriological